

PARANORMAL UNDERGROUND®

Volume 17, Issue 10

October 2024

Rick Warner

Extraterrestrial Research
Center

The Banshee's Wail:
Forewarning Spirit of Death

**Inside Haunted
Edinburgh Castle**

**The Evolution
of Ufology**

**The Grim Reaper
Encounters**

Santa Muerte
The Lady of Holy Death

ALSO INSIDE:

PARANORMAL BOOKS FOR THE SPOOKY SEASON

THE TEHRAN UFO INCIDENT: AERIAL MYSTERY UNVEILED

THE PARANORMAL EXPERIENCES OF A SKEPTIC

HOW TO USE A OUIJA BOARD, SAFELY (PART 2)



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With ...



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Paranormal
Underground*



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*Psychic Intuitive
& Paranormal
Researcher*



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*Author & Energy
Healer*

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Cheryl is a psychic medium, remote viewer, explorer, and researcher. Having her first paranormal experience at a young age made her realize she had a unique Sixth Sense and was able to communicate with those on the other side.



Cheryl's passion for one haunted location afforded her the opportunity to appear and consult in Chris Halton's documentary *A Haunting at Bachelors Grove*, one of the most haunted cemeteries in the Midwest.

She is an experiencer and a member of MUFON and CE-5. She served as a consultant for Thomas Conwell's books *They Are Here: Central U.S. UFOs* and *Earthquakes and UFOs*. Cheryl is an international author of eight books, including *Edge of Darkness*, *Chosen*, and *Dimensions: Mysterious Triangles of the U.S.*, and she is the co-author of *Digging Into Skinwalker Ranch* and *The Basin Files: Skinwalker Ranch*.

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Willie is the author of two books detailing his 50-year journey in the paranormal, *The Shaman Windwalker* and *Soul Warriors*.

Willie has appeared on A&E's *Cursed: The Bell Witch* and CMT's *Most Shocking Ghosts*. He also hosted a public access show in Louisville, Kentucky, for 12 years, called *Spiritual Gifts and Wonders*. In addition, he created a group of sensitives, called Soul Warriors, who are based across the U.S.

CHERYL KNIGHT-WILSON

Cheryl is co-creator and editor-in-chief of *Paranormal Underground* magazine, cohost of the *Mindful Mystics* podcast and cohost and producer of *Paranormal Underground Radio*. She is the former cohost of the *Intention Is Everything* podcast.

She has written articles on topics ranging from advanced technology and enterprise computing to travel guides and paranormal phenomena. Her magazine experience includes roles as senior and managing editor for several niche publications and online media.



Cheryl has experienced all types of paranormal phenomena, from ghostly activity to psychic events.
paranormalunderground.net

LISA LAMONICA

Lisa is an author and illustrator. She is the author of *Haunted Catskills* and *Witches and Warlocks of New York*. She has also written for *Chronogram Magazine*, *Haunted History Trail of New York*, *Hudson Art & History Magazine*, *Hudson Valley Parent Magazine*, and PBS/WMHT.



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Athena is the founder and CEO of *SageGoddess.com*, a source of sacred tools and metaphysical education. She earned a doctorate from the University of Southern California in educational leadership and has 15 years of experience as a professor, corporate trainer and consultant, and educator.



Athena's metaphysical experience includes expertise in gemology, astrology, tarot, aromatherapy, Reiki, and herbal medicine. Through her writing, online courses, and material offerings, Athena helps others cultivate and maintain sacred space in their lives for peace, healing, and abundance.

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LISA QUIGLEY

Lisa is a horror author with an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of California, Riv-

erside's low-residency MFA program in Palm Desert. She's senior editor of The Lineup and Murder & Mayhem, as well the co-host of the award-winning horror podcast *Ladies of the Fright*.



Hell's Bells (2020) and *Camp Neverland* (2021) from Unnerving are her novellas, and *The Forest* (PMMP 2021) is her debut novel. Her work has also appeared in such places as *Unnerving Magazine*, *Journal of Alta California*, and *Automata Review*. Lisa lives in New Jersey with one handsome devil and two wild monsters.

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RAINBOW RADAELLI

Rainbow is a paranormal, abductee, and cryptid researcher along with her husband, Michael. She is an experiencer herself, dealing with paranormal phenomenon since childhood.



The silk road of life has led Rainbow in many directions: cowgirl, medicine woman, gypsy, belly dancer, and truth seeker. All directions have paralleled each other, finally coming together in Rainbow's articles, research, and blogs.

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PAUL DALE ROBERTS

Known as an esoteric detective, Paul has been reading and studying the unknown since he was a young boy. He has been to over 59 countries to document the paranormal.



Paul worked for military intelligence from 1979 to 1986 and saw several top-secret UFO photographs, making him very interested in extraterrestrials. He is a journalist for the *Costa Rican Times*, and his articles cover metaphysical topics and paranormal investigative stories. He is also co-owner of Halo Paranormal Investigations.

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COREY SHARER

Corey is a paranormal enthusiast who has investigated at The Queen Mary, The Queen Anne

Hotel, Hotel Alex Johnson, and The Whaley House.



He has personally encountered paranormal phenomena, including seeing ghostly apparitions and UFOs, and is most interested in trying to solve the mysteries of the paranormal.

CHAD WILSON

A freelance writer, Chad is co-creator and publisher of *Paranormal Underground* magazine and co-producer of *Paranormal Underground Radio*. His interest in the paranormal led to the creation of ParanormalUnderground.net.



Chad has investigated with East Tennessee Paranormal Research Society and counts Waverly Hills Sanatorium, the Villisca Axe Murder House, Bobby Mackey's Music World, the Queen Mary, Queen Anne Hotel, Hotel Alex Johnson, Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, and private residences among his investigations.

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Have You Had a Paranormal Encounter You'd Like to Share?

If you've had a paranormal encounter and would like to share it with our readers, email us at paranormalunderground@live.com. Tell us about your experience, and we may publish it in a future issue.



We are looking for encounters with all types of paranormal phenomena, including experiences with ghosts, cryptids, UFOs/ETs, the spirit realm, psychic phenomena, etc.

And don't worry ... your submission can be anonymous!

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November 2

Belle City Paracon
 Somers, WI
visitracinecounty.com/events/belle-city-paracon

November 2-3

The New Jersey Paraunity Expo
 Woodbridge, NJ
newjerseyparaunityexpo.com

November 2-7

CrimeCruise
 Roundtrip from Miami, FL
crimecruise.com

November 8-10

Port Gamble Ghost Conference
 Port Gamble, WA
portgamble.com/upcoming-events/ghost-conference

November 8-10

Monster-Mania Con
 Oaks, PA
monstermania.net

November 9

Overnight Camping at "The House In Between"
 Florence, MS
nightshiftevents.net/the-house-in-between-overnight-camping-experience

November 16-17

Dark Art & Oddities Con
 Dekalb, IL
darkartandodditiescon.com

November 22-24

Days of the Dead
 Chicago, IL
daysofthedeath.com

December 6-8

GalaxyCon Columbus
 Columbus, OH
galaxycon.com/pages/galaxycon-columbus

December 7

Dark Christmas & Krampus-naught Faire
 Manchester, TN
ladyfrightsemporium.com/events.html

December 7-8

Horror for the Holidays
 Austin, TX
bloodovertexas.com/hfth-2023

December 13-14

Tulsa Horror Con
 Tulsa, OK
horrorconokc.com

December 14

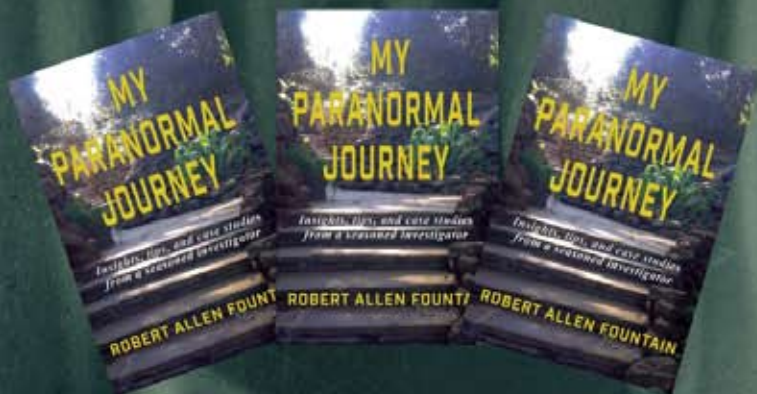
Christmas Cheer at McInteer! A haunted holiday celebration & investigation
 Atchison, KS
eventbrite.com/e/christmas-cheer-at-mcinteer-a-haunted-holiday-celebration-investigation-tickets-818859309237

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MY PARANORMAL JOURNEY

BY ROBERT ALLEN FOUNTAIN

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CEMETERY GHOST GIRL, PROOF OF ET COMING & GLIMPSES OF HEAVEN AND HELL

GHOST GIRL SPOTTED IN LIVERPOOL CEMETERY VIDEO

A video from the Liverpool *Echo* shows what some believe to be the ghostly figure of a young girl in Liverpool's Walton Park Cemetery. Uploaded by YouTube channel Spotted UFOs Ghosts and Cryptids, the footage features a man cleaning a gravestone, while in the right corner, viewers can see the silhouette of a small figure that many say resembles a child.

"Hello everyone, these pictures were taken at a graveyard in Liverpool in the U.K.," stated Spotted UFOs Ghosts and Cryptids in their post. The figure reportedly aligns with the age of a girl buried in the cemetery, who passed away at age nine. The YouTuber added, "She seems to be wearing old-fashioned style clothing, so it'll be interesting to know when the little girl on the gravestone had died."

The video, taken at Rice Lane Farm Cemetery, has ignited online discussions, with many speculating on the spectral figure's origins. The mysterious appearance adds another layer of intrigue to the historic cemetery, sparking curiosity and a fair share of chills among those captivated by the supernatural.

[Check out the video](#) and decide for yourself.

CHARLOTTE HOLMES' GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN AND HELL

In a profound account reported by the *Republic*, 68-year-old Charlotte Holmes of Wichita described an extraordinary journey beyond life during a 2019 medical crisis. Clinically dead for 11 minutes after a blood pressure spike, Holmes shared her vivid experience, which she believed confirmed the afterlife.



"I was above my body," Holmes recalled. "I could see them doing chest compressions. I could smell the most beautiful flowers I've ever smelled."

Her vision unfolded with scenes of Heaven, where she encountered angels, deceased family, and felt an overwhelming sense of "pure joy." Holmes' detailed descriptions emphasized Heaven's beauty, with landscapes that "swayed with the music" and loved ones appearing in a vibrant, healthier state.

"They didn't look old. They didn't look sick," she said.

However, the journey also took a dark turn when God reportedly showed her "the edge of Hell." Describing the terrifying scene, Holmes shared, "The smell — rotten flesh — that's what it smelled like. And screams."

Upon her revival, Holmes felt a duty to convey hope, asserting, "Heaven is real."

Her husband, Danny, witnessed her vision's impact, recalling, "I knew she was not in this world." Holmes shared her story until her passing in 2023.



RACE TO PROVE EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE COULD MAKE HISTORY

In a recent article by the *Mirror*, British academic Professor Simon Holland claims that astronomers may be on the verge of a groundbreaking discovery: confirmed evidence of extraterrestrial life.

According to Holland, who has produced NASA-funded documentaries, two teams — one connected to Mark Zuckerberg's Breakthrough Listen project and another in China — are competing to confirm the first evidence of an alien civilization.

"We have found a non-human extraterrestrial intelligence in our galaxy, and people don't know about it," he said.

The target of this research, BLC-1, reportedly dis-



plays a “single point source” signal — unlike typical cosmic noise, it’s a narrow, focused electromagnetic spectrum.

“The signal, instead of being the giant buzz of everything in the Universe ... was a narrow electromagnetic spectrum,” Holland explained.

The Chinese team’s FAST telescope, the world’s largest since Arecibo, adds to the competition. Both teams hope to publish their findings soon, potentially within a month. If verified, this could be one of history’s most profound discoveries.

NEUROTECH STARTUP CLAIMS FIRST DREAM COMMUNICATION BREAKTHROUGH

In a recent report from *The Debrief*, California-based startup REMspace claims to have achieved “the first two-way communication between individuals during lucid dreaming.” This pioneering work, if verified, could open doors to applications in mental health and skill training.

Using specialized equipment, REMspace facilitated a


dream-based exchange between participants. The milestone is groundbreaking but has yet to be peer-reviewed.

REMspace founder Michael Raduga has been unorthodox in his pursuit of dream communication, notably drilling into his own skull in 2023 to implant a brain-stimulating microchip, an act he shared on social media with images. Although not a neurosurgeon, Raduga remains enthusiastic about the potential of his experiment despite nearly fatal blood loss.



The REMspace team’s communication success took place on September 24, 2024. According to Raduga, “Random words generated by a server” were relayed to participants via earbuds, enabling one participant to receive and confirm the word upon waking. In addition, REMspace has developed a dream language called Remmyo, detectable through electromyography sensors, designed to allow “real-time communication while dreaming.”

Raduga believes “dream communication will become common” soon, though more validation is needed for the scientific community to fully embrace these findings. ♦



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PARANORMAL BOOKS FOR THE ULTIMATE SPOOKY SEASON

By Lisa LaMonica

It's always spooky season in the paranormal world, and if you're a fan of Travel Channel's paranormal programming, you've become familiar with many of its TV show hosts and paranormal experts, several who have also authored books for us to keep and enjoy.

Here are two such books that I think you'll enjoy!

"Food to Die For: Recipes and Stories From America's Most Legendary Haunted Places" by Amy Bruni

Whether it's the hardcover or softcover edition, this cookbook is one to rely on for feasts with some incredibly easy meals to prepare. Amy Bruni came to us through TV shows *Kindred Spirits* and *Ghost Hunters*, and the book is a pairing of food and her adventures at paranormal locations throughout America.

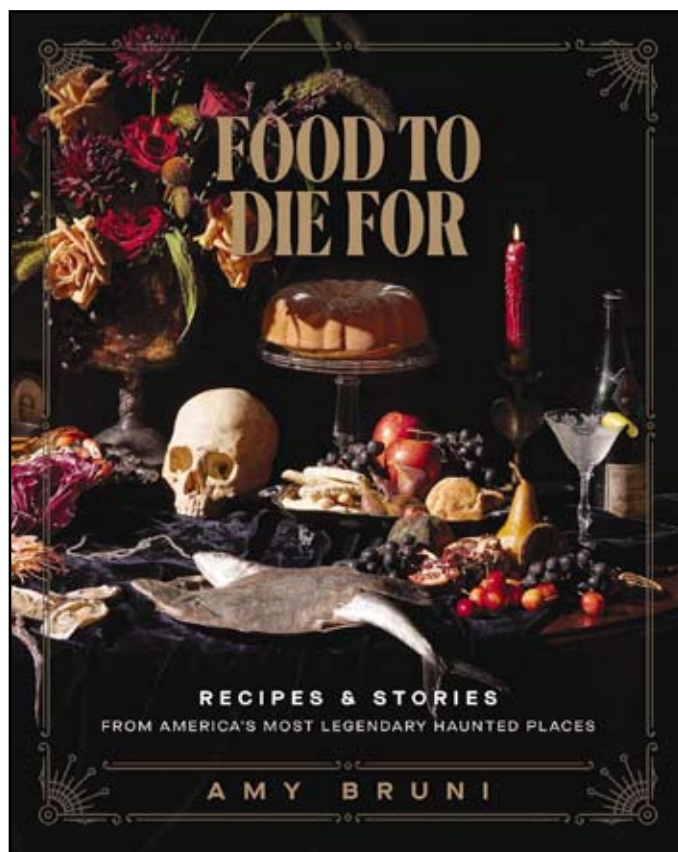
The book is a feast for the eyes as well, beautifully designed with rich photography of food, flowers, and the macabre.

The author states that the book is "Dedicated to the memory of Lizzie Borden, whose killer meatloaf recipe inspired the idea for this book." And the book's first line grabs you: "Food can bring the dead back to life."

Seafood Chowder, inspired by the visit to Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, Massachusetts — built in 1925 on land previously owned by one of the first women executed for witchcraft in 1692 — will inspire the reader to experiment with these recipes and plan field trips to locations detailed in the book.

Old-Fashioned Yankee Pot Roast from the Conjuring House in Rhode Island and the author's recollections and feelings of filming there are included. More than only being a cookbook, it is loaded with historical images and history and lore of locations featured on TV.

Bruni also gives fascinating information on her reasons for entering paranormal research, as well as methods used in doing so. Some of the investigation stories that are emotional and meaningful grace the glossy pages for



"Discover tantalizing recipes, spine-tingling stories, and historic photos from the most notoriously haunted locations across America in this fun and fascinating cookbook."

anyone having missed some of the shows' episodes on Travel Channel.

Field trips and food ... you'll find it all in Bruni's cookbook.

"Ghosts of Sleepy Hollow: Haunts of the Headless Horseman" by Sam Baltrusis

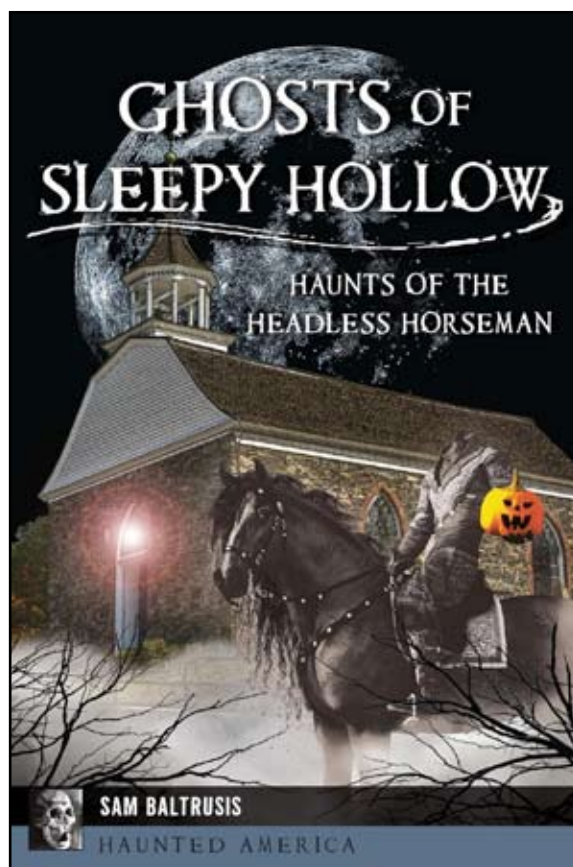
Washington Irving's characters Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman come from America's first published ghost story, and practically give the Hudson Valley

ownership over Halloween. We can forever be grateful to Washington Irving for crafting such fascinating folklore akin to the likes of Dracula and Frankenstein.

The Headless Horseman is based on a Hessian soldier having lost his head during an American Revolutionary battle. These characters are known the world over and still feature prominently in our Halloween holiday, as well as advertising — not to mention the story's many adaptations into films over the years.

In his new book, Sam Baltrusis, who is a regular paranormal expert on the Travel Channel, gives history on Irving's Hudson River home, Sunnyside, and the Old Dutch Church, as well as tales of Hulda the Witch and lesser-known places and their folklore.

Sleepy Hollow, along with Salem, Massachusetts, have become



among the top tourist destinations in America during Halloween time.

Legendary Captain Kidd may have hid treasure and gold throughout the Hudson Valley and Catskills. One person interviewed for the book is Brian J. Cano of Travel Channel's *Paranormal Caught on Camera*, who has also worked on historic sites along with the New York State Haunted History trail.

Check out this must-read book for chilling tales! ♦

"Rumors of Headless Horseman sightings surge during spooky season while visitors flock to the Valley's haunted hot spots like the Old Dutch Church and the famed writer's Sunnyside home. Join author and journalist Sam Baltrusis on a bone-chilling journey through the streets of Sleepy Hollow as he breathes new life into the legendary village's long-departed souls."

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Featuring



Paranormal author and rock journalist Maxim Furek has arrived as the 21st-century incarnation of John Keel. In *The Lost Tribes of Bigfoot*, Furek explores the uncharted waters surrounding the cryptid's forbidden realm in a rousing and controversial expose.

Doug Hajicek,
Monster Quest



"If it's not
flesh and blood
then what is it?"

Maxim W. Furek

BEYOND THE SEEN:

A Q&A WITH ERC'S RICK WARNER ON UFOs, THE PARANORMAL, AND THE ART OF INVESTIGATION

By Cheryl Knight-Wilson

Rick Warner is on a mission to bring clarity to the mysteries of UFOs and the paranormal, leading investigations with a rare blend of expertise, skepticism, and passion. As the executive director and director of investigations at the Extraterrestrial Research Center (ERC), Rick leads a mission to explore unexplained phenomena, working tirelessly to shed light on mysteries that have fascinated humankind for generations.

A certified UFO Field Investigator through the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), Rick has broadened his investigative horizons as the U.S. Ambassador to the Italian UFO Federation and as Lead Investigator with Phantom Detectives, a paranormal investigation team based in the U.S.

With decades of fascination fueled by personal encounters — including a UFO sighting as a child — Rick's passion for these mysteries goes beyond professional curiosity. Balancing roles as a part-time construction worker, martial arts instructor, and student of forensic science, he continues to deepen his expertise in areas such as space travel, astronomy, and business development.

In this exclusive Q&A, Rick shares insights into his work, detailing the complex web of research, investigation, and education that defines the ERC's mission.

In his words, "You're never done learning," and as our conversation unfolds, Rick sheds light on how his multifaceted background shapes his pursuit of truth within the unexplained.

* * * * *

Q: You wear many hats — from being the executive director of the ERC to a certified UFO Field Investigator and even a martial arts instructor. How do you manage to juggle all these roles, and do they intersect in surprising ways?

Rick: I started out as a certified field UFO investigator



Rick Warner combines a scientific approach with personal curiosity in his UFO and paranormal investigations, driven by a commitment to evidence-based inquiry. As executive director of the ERC, he dedicates himself to unraveling unexplained phenomena. Rick's childhood UFO sighting ignited his lifelong passion for investigating the unknown. His diverse background, spanning construction work, martial arts, and forensic science studies, brings unique skills and perspectives to his investigative work.

trained by MUFON. After investigating many cases involving extraterrestrial subject matter, I decided I wanted to start my own organization, ERC, for the purpose of investigating a few select cases, as well as creating an awareness about extraterrestrial subject matter.

I am also the U.S. ambassador to the Italian UFO Federation (FUI) and lead investigator for an established team of paranormal investigators, called Phantom Detectives. Sometimes it isn't easy juggling so many hats, but I'm doing what I love to do best, and that is investigating cases involving the paranormal.

I have learned, however, that you have to be careful not to bite off more than you can chew. I have to keep reminding myself of that. Sometimes I find myself playing catch-up to get things completed.

Q: Can you share more about the ERC's mission of "educating, researching, investigating, and inspiring" and how you personally align with this mission?

Rick: I think it's important to be very thorough and try to keep things interesting for everyone. You need to cover all bases if you are trying to get people interested in learning about extraterrestrial subject matter.

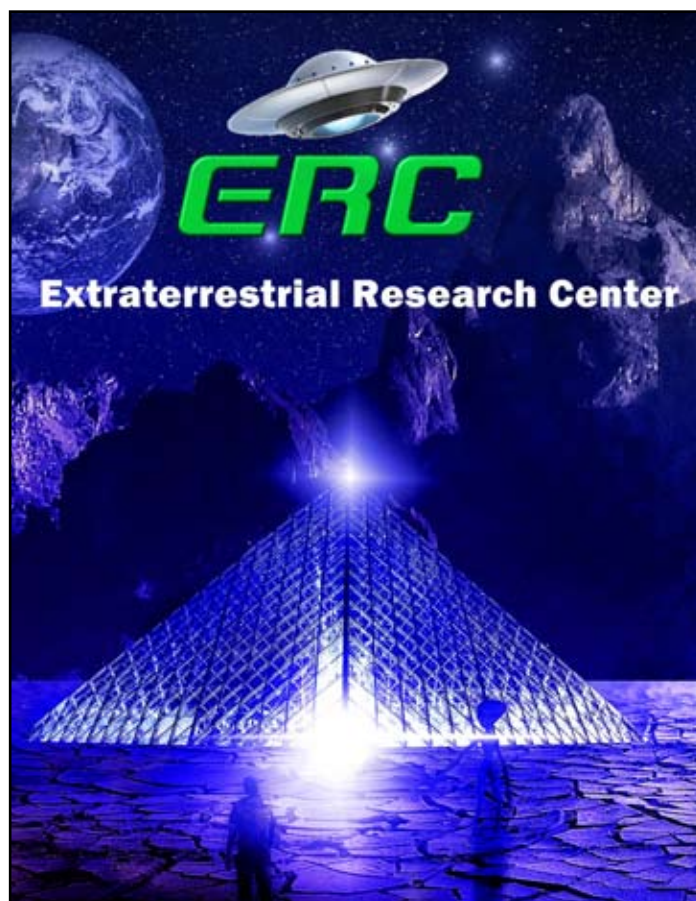
When I put together the ERC organization, I didn't make it just about people filling out sighting report forms to have me investigate cases only, but instead I wanted to provide interesting material for people to get engaged and so they could educate themselves at the same time.

Q: You are the U.S. Ambassador to the Italian UFO Federation (FUI). How does this international connection enhance or influence your research in the extraterrestrial field?

Rick: When the Italian UFO Federation reached out to me, I was approached by the man that ran the organization who wrote me to me in Italian, so it was a little bit challenging at first. I had to copy and paste all the material he wrote into a language translator so that way I could translate Italian to English for me to read, since I don't speak or write Italian.

Now, I mainly send articles that I write to the FUI, and I must convert my English documents into Italian. So, it can be a bit of a challenge! But they brought me on not really to investigate or research on their end, but rather to corroborate and share information.

Q: With a lifelong interest in UFOs and the paranormal, can you pinpoint a formative experience from your childhood that set you on this path?



The Extraterrestrial Research Center (ERC) is dedicated to investigating, educating, and inspiring curiosity about extraterrestrial phenomena. Under Rick Warner's leadership, the ERC goes beyond simple sighting reports, providing engaging material for the public to learn and explore the field independently.

Rick: Yes, actually, when I was a child and when I lived in Southern California, I was with my mother and a friend of hers, and they were busy chatting while I was in the backseat. As we approached a freeway overpass, I saw an extraterrestrial craft quickly hover over the sky and then takeoff at an incredible speed. And then it was completely gone.

My mother and her friend were so busy talking and looking at each other that they completely missed it, as this happened rather quickly. I was a young child at the time, so I didn't feel comfortable sharing it with anyone as I didn't think anyone would believe me. Now, I feel very comfortable talking about my childhood experience.

Q: You've earned a variety of certificates in subject areas ranging from astronomy and space travel to business development. How do these different fields of study inform your work in extraterrestrial and paranormal research?



Rick brings a unique blend of expertise and skepticism to his work in the field of extraterrestrial and paranormal investigation. As both a certified UFO field investigator and U.S. ambassador to the Italian UFO Federation, he bridges international perspectives in his quest to uncover the truth.

Rick: When I took my training from MUFON, I was just starting out, learning to become a certified UFO Field Investigator. I went through all the training courses, including going through the online training university. The training I received was very thorough and covered many aspects of many things, and since I was going to be investigating cases, I was fortunate to receive such very thorough training with a great curriculum.

They wanted to make sure that all investigators are well-rounded and know how to conduct a thorough and complete investigation. To this day, I always hold if you want to be successful in something it's very important to keep yourself well informed and educated.

Q: As someone who has had personal experiences of spotting UFOs and experiencing ghostly visita-

tions, how do these personal encounters influence your approach to investigations?

Rick: I've learned that it's very important not to just take everyone's word for what they tell you they are experiencing as being extraterrestrial in nature or ghostly paranormal. It's important that you're always thorough in an investigation and keep in mind that sometimes the things that people tell you they actually believe, but that does not mean that it's true.

You have to try to debunk things first and look at the facts of the case, as well as pay attention to important details and accuracy. Many times, the things that people see can be explained by natural phenomenon, such as man-made crafts, a star or a planet, weather phenomenon, and other objects. Or they capture pictures that they may think show spirits or orbs, but instead are specs of dust, flying insects, moisture, or particles of dust, etc.

Q: You're involved with Phantom Detectives, a paranormal investigation group, as the lead investigator, tech manager, and director of client relations. How does this role complement your work at ERC, and do you find overlaps between UFO and ghost investigations?

Rick: I feel both that the work that I do and training that I received working with ERC, and also training to become a field investigator to interview clients over the phone and in person, I've taken those skills that I've learned to enhance my interviewing skills with clients to establish credibility and to gain history and knowledge of the places that we are going to investigate. I've also taken some of the skills I've learned as being a paranormal investigator and those skills that I've learned from being a lead investigator has also helped me as a UFO/UAP case investigator.

The word paranormal encompasses both of these worlds. And, regardless, if you're going to investigate paranormal activity to find and locate spirit activity or if you're going to investigate real sightings, it's important that you are very thorough in your research. And when you are interviewing a client, you cannot just take their word on everything that they say. Before you take on a case, the last thing you want to do is agree with everything that they are saying, but rather you want to be a good listener and let them tell their narrative and then use the information they have given you.

Then, once you investigate a case, it's important to be thorough and try to debunk anything that you may see first and make sure that you are thorough in your investigation techniques. Your job isn't just to throw information out there, but rather to gain accurate knowledge about a case and let the data speak for itself.

Q: Being a part-time construction worker, have you ever encountered any strange or unexplainable phenomena on worksites? If so, could you share one such experience?

Rick: It's interesting that you asked me that, and the answer to that is yes! Not really something that was extraterrestrial in nature, but there was a time when I was working in one of my client's homes, and my helper was with me at the time, and the strangest thing happened. The phone started ringing, which is very weird since the electrical service, as I was informed, was completely shut off. This was told to me by the client that hired me that owned the property. His grandmother had passed away in the house that we were working on.

My helper and I were thinking maybe he made a mistake and it didn't get shut off, but the homeowner said that wasn't the case. He said it was just his grandmother trying to communicate with us. We weren't scared really, but after that, I remember we heard a loud bang coming from inside the closet when there was no one else inside the empty apartment except for us. When this happened, I said: "Hello Grandma, would you give us a sign and let us know that you are here with us?" After that, we heard a loud bang come out of the closet, and it freaked my helper out a little bit and she ran outside of the apartment.

Q: What have been some of your most memorable cases to date?

Rick: As both a paranormal investigator and an extraterrestrial UFO investigator, there are quite a bit of cases between the two of them that had many exciting experiences. There was one instance when I was investigating a Class Level 3 case in the state of Delaware, when a very credible witness, who previously had a high position working at a military base, had filed a case report that I investigated.

She claimed that when she was walking her dog on a rainy day, she stopped for a moment to take a couple pictures, and when she got back home, she looked at the pictures and claimed that she could see what appeared to be an extraterrestrial spaceship. She also claimed to have seen in the photo a giant, reptilian alien being. After analyzing the photos, I headed out to where the sighting supposedly took place.

After conducting some field tests, we determined that what looked like a giant reptilian alien being in the photograph wasn't that at all, but instead it was a giant evergreen tree. And what appeared to be two eyes were actually a couple of pinecones sitting at the very top of the tree. In the instance of the shadow in the photo that was shaped



As a young child, Rick saw a UFO out of his car window, helping to shape his fascination with unexplainable phenomenon.

like an extraterrestrial craft, it was actually a shadow that was cast against the wall from a row of a bunch of trees. This will happen on a rainy day, so, even though there wasn't any sun out, you can still have shadows cast without the Sun.

It wasn't that this lady wasn't smart or that she was trying to be deceptive, but it was rather the fact that she was playing off of her own fears because of her past. This particular person had some extraterrestrial experiences that scared her, so she kind of jumped the gun a little bit in her findings. But in the end, she was relieved to know that we could completely explain and debunk what she thought was alien activity.

Q: With ongoing studies in forensic science and information technology, what's next for you? Are there any upcoming projects or research that our readers should be on the lookout for?

Rick: Things are always evolving, and we are always growing and constantly learning. For someone to say that they know everything is a big mistake and a bit shallow. No matter how much knowledge you have, you're never done learning. There's always a lot to learn to and grow to educate yourself.

* * * * *

Learn more about Rick Warner and his work at the [Extraterrestrial Research Center](#) and [Phantom Detectives](#). ♦

HOW TO USE A OUIJA BOARD, SAFELY (PART 2)

BY LISA QUIGLEY, THE LINEUP

For Part 1 of this article, see our September 2024 issue.

The skepticism surrounding Ouija boards is rooted in a number of different concerns and beliefs. Some people are skeptical of Ouija boards because they see them as nothing more than a toy or a game, with no real connection to the spiritual or supernatural realm.

Additionally, some skeptics of Ouija boards point to the fact that many of the supposed “messages” or responses that people receive from the board are often vague or ambiguous and could easily be explained by chance or the unconscious movements of the users’ hands.

Overall, the skepticism surrounding Ouija boards is often rooted in a combination of these concerns, as well as a more general skepticism toward the supernatural and paranormal. Skeptics argue that the messages that come through the board are actually the result of the ideomotor effect.

What Is the Ideomotor Effect?

The ideomotor effect is a psychological phenomenon in which a person’s unconscious or involuntary movements are influenced by their thoughts, beliefs, or expectations. In other words, when a person believes a certain movement is expected of them, they may unknowingly make that movement without being consciously aware they are doing so.

The ideomotor effect has been studied in a variety of contexts, including hypnosis, suggestion, and Ouija board use. For example, when a person is hypnotized and told to perform a certain action, such as raising their arm, they may do so automatically without consciously intending to do so. Similarly, when a person uses a Ouija board and believes the planchette will move to spell out certain words or phrases, they may unconsciously move the pointer themselves without realizing they’re the ones who are moving it.

Scientists believe the ideomotor effect occurs because of the close relationship between a person’s thoughts, be-





liefs, and movements. When a person has a certain belief or expectation, it can influence their subconscious mind and result in involuntary movements that are consistent with that belief or expectation.

While the ideomotor effect is a well-established psychological phenomenon, it is important to note that it does not necessarily mean that the movements or actions that are influenced by it are not genuine. For example, even if a person is unconsciously moving the pointer on a Ouija board, the messages spelled out may still be meaningful to them and provide insight into their subconscious thoughts and beliefs.

How to Use a Ouija Board

Regardless of what you believe, the Ouija board is simply a tool like any other. Its power and meaning ultimately come from the beliefs and intentions of those who use it.

If you want to add some intrigue to a party, spice up your stay in a haunted hotel, or just have some (harmless — we hope!) fun with your friends, Ouija boards can be a fun way to connect with spirits or entities beyond our physical realm. However, many believe they can also be potentially dangerous if used improperly, so like any magical tool, it's best to approach it with care and respect.

Whether you believe the Ouija board is really able to

communicate with spirits or you think it's just a fun game, it can't hurt to keep things safe — just in case.

If you're going to use a Ouija board, here are some best practices to ensure the safety of all involved. When it comes to the spirit world, you can never be too careful.

1. Set Your Intentions

Before using the Ouija board, decide ahead of time what kind of energy you want to invite into the space. This can help to ensure that you only communicate with positive and helpful spirits. Name (preferably out loud) what kind of communication you are available for — and you can even set further boundaries by stating what you are not open to.

Set your intentions out loud by saying, "I am only available to communicate with beings and spirits who have my highest and best interests at heart. Any entities that don't want what's in my highest and best interest are not welcome in this space."

2. Use the Board With at Least One Trusted Partner (Preferably More!)

Only use the Ouija board with people you trust and who have a positive attitude. Using the board with someone who is negative or skeptical can create a nega-





tive atmosphere and potentially attract negative energies. Agree beforehand on the intentions of your group — and state them together!

3. Protect Yourself

Before using the board, consider using protection methods, such as smoke cleansing or using protective crystals like black tourmaline, black onyx, or selenite, or filling a bowl with salt. Perhaps you'd like to include all of these in your session! These can help to absorb negative energies, protecting you from any unwanted presences or influences.

Dried herbs, such as cedar, rosemary, lavender, and desert sage, are ideal for cleansing spaces of unwanted energies from a space. Please note that white sage is endangered and is also a very sacred plant to many Indigenous peoples. Many people view the use of white sage by non-natives as appropriative and disrespectful. Use your best judgment when working with any herb or plant.

You may also light a candle and ask that the fire protects your space from any harmful entities or spirits.

4. Ask Respectful Questions — and Take Notes!

When communicating with spirits, ask respectful questions and avoid being confrontational, demanding, or degrading. This helps to create a positive and respectful atmosphere.

Assign a member of your group with the task of taking

notes so you don't have to remember all that was said. Make sure they have a notepad and a pencil so they can write down the messages from the board throughout your session.

5. Know When to End the Session

If you become uncomfortable or scared at any point during the session, end it immediately. Don't continue to use the board if you feel something feels wrong or you are not in the right mindset.

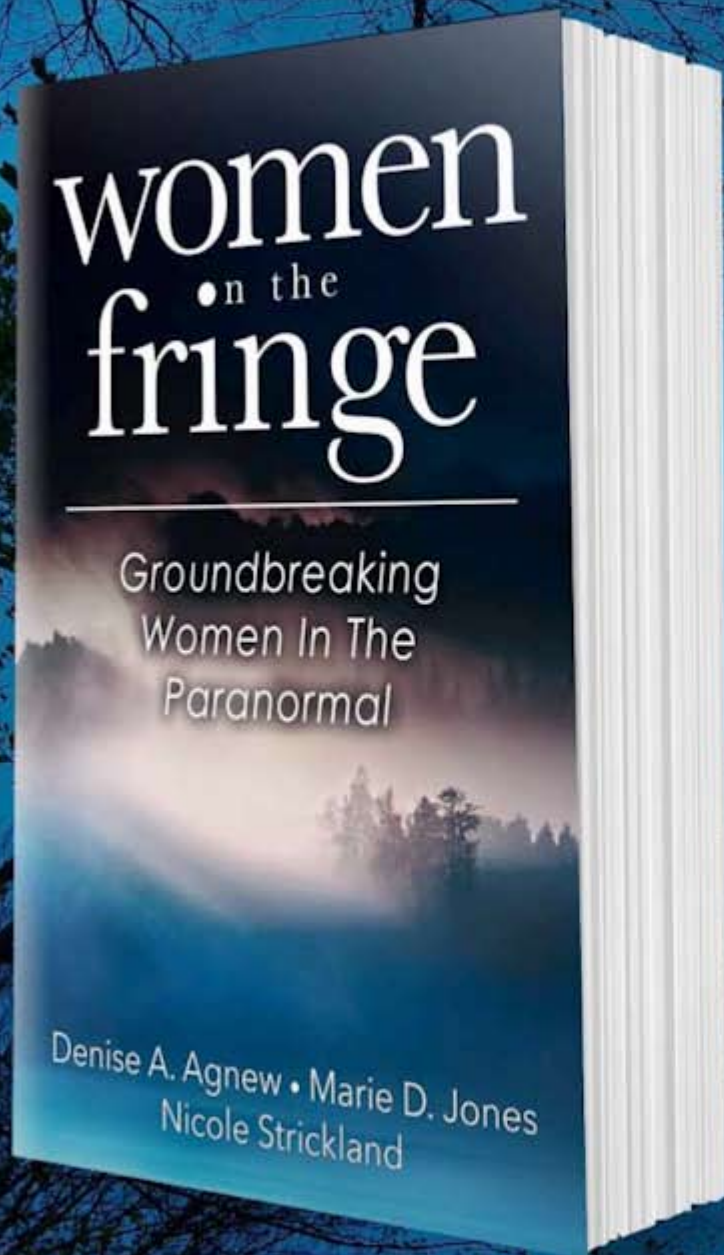
6. End the Session Appropriately

When you end a Ouija board session, move the planchette to "Goodbye" on the board. Additionally, state out loud that no entities are welcome to linger. Your voice is a powerful tool — use it!

You may also want to clear the space with smoke and take some time to ground and center yourself. Close your eyes and imagine a cord of light extending from your root to the core of the earth. Imagine this cord drawing up grounding energy and warm light. As you imagine this light swirling through your body, release any energy that does not belong to you to be neutralized by the earth, and call all your own energy back into your body.

By following these guidelines, you ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants. But be prepared for goosebumps — you never know what the spirits will have to say! ♦

"Five stars! Fascinating!"
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HAUNTED EDINBURGH CASTLE: HISTORY, HAUNTINGS & CHILLING ENCOUNTERS

BY CHERYL KNIGHT-WILSON

Perched on Castle Rock, high above the city of Edinburgh, lies one of Scotland's most iconic and haunted landmarks — Edinburgh Castle. This centuries-old fortress, with its formidable stone walls and shadowed halls, has stood as a witness to a turbulent history that includes battles, executions, and imprisonments.

Unsurprisingly, these walls carry not only the legacy of Scotland's past, but also ghostly tales that continue to captivate visitors and paranormal enthusiasts alike. Here's a dive into the haunting history of Edinburgh Castle and the spine-chilling encounters reported within its stone embrace.

A Fortress of Ancient and Bloody History

Edinburgh Castle's history stretches back more than a thousand years. Archaeologists have discovered evidence of human habitation on Castle Rock as far back as the Iron Age, with the earliest forts built around the 2nd century. The site's prime location made it a desirable stronghold, and it became a royal residence and military base for Scottish monarchs. During the Wars of Scottish Independence, it was a prized target. The English captured it multiple times, but the Scots valiantly recaptured it, establishing the castle as a symbol of Scottish resilience and independence.

By the 15th century, the castle housed many royal residents, including Mary, Queen of Scots, who gave birth to James VI here. Edinburgh Castle eventually transitioned into a military garrison and prison, a place that witnessed not only the conflict of armies, but also the anguish of those held within its dungeons. Given its bloody history, it's little wonder that tales of ghosts and paranormal encounters swirl around this fortress.

Ghosts of Edinburgh Castle: Legends & Encounters

The ghostly legends of Edinburgh Castle are as famous as its history, with several restless spirits believed to haunt its grounds. Here are some of the most spine-tingling accounts:



Perched on Castle Rock, high above the city of Edinburgh, lies one of Scotland's most iconic and haunted landmarks — Edinburgh Castle.

The Lone Piper: Perhaps the most well-known ghost is that of the Lone Piper. Years ago, the story goes, a young piper was sent into the tunnels beneath the castle to explore their extent. He played his bagpipes as he walked, allowing people above to trace his path by following the sound. The music suddenly stopped halfway through, and the piper vanished without a trace. Despite extensive searches, no body was ever found.

Today, visitors and staff claim to hear faint sounds of bagpipes echoing from beneath the castle — especially on quiet, misty evenings. The mournful tune is thought to be the ghost of the piper, forever lost in the maze of tunnels.



Edinburgh Castle stands as a testament to Scotland's fierce history and cultural heritage, but it also represents the eerie intertwining of past and present, a place where history lingers in ways that defy explanation.

The Headless Drummer: Another famous ghost at Edinburgh Castle is that of the headless drummer. The first recorded sighting dates back to 1650, during Oliver Cromwell's siege of the castle. The drummer appears only when the castle is about to face danger, drumming out an ominous rhythm without his head, which is said to have been lost in battle. Although his identity remains unknown, many speculate that he was a young boy killed in a raid.

Today, some visitors and castle staff report hearing the faint sound of drumming echoing in the early morning or late at night, a warning of impending peril, or perhaps just a memory of past violence that refuses to fade.

Prisoner Ghosts: The castle's vaults and dungeons housed countless prisoners, from captured soldiers to accused witches. Many were tortured, and some even executed, leaving a dark energy in the stone cells. Visitors often report feeling a sudden, intense chill upon entering these areas, along with an overwhelming sense of dread. Some claim to have seen the shadowy figures of prisoners still roaming the dungeons, particularly in the castle's infamous underground vaults.

One of the most disturbing ghost stories involves a prisoner who attempted to escape by hiding in a cart that carried away the castle's waste. Tragically, he died in the attempt, and his ghost is said to haunt the area, filling the space with a foul stench and occasional whispers.

Modern Paranormal Investigations

Over the years, Edinburgh Castle has attracted numerous paranormal investigators and ghost hunters eager to explore its haunted reputation. In 2001, the castle was

the site of one of the largest paranormal investigations in Europe, conducted by Edinburgh University and the TV show *Ghost Hunters International*.

A team of 240 participants, including scientists and historians, spent 10 days exploring the castle's haunted locations. Their experiences included sudden temperature drops, unexplained shadows, and feelings of being touched by unseen forces. While skeptics suggest that such encounters may result from overactive imaginations, those who have experienced them firsthand often leave as believers.

The Castle's Haunting Legacy

Edinburgh Castle stands as a testament to Scotland's fierce history and cultural heritage. But it also represents the eerie intertwining of past and present, a place where history lingers in ways that defy explanation. Whether it's the ghostly tune of the bagpipes, the drumming of a phantom musician, or the shadows of former prisoners, the castle's haunting legends endure, providing visitors with both chills and a glimpse into its storied past.

Today, the castle attracts thousands of tourists each year, many drawn not only by its historical significance, but also by the allure of encountering something otherworldly. Ghost tours take guests through the castle's most haunted spots, sharing tales of its tragic past and legendary apparitions. For those seeking a spooky adventure, Edinburgh Castle offers an experience like no other — where every shadow, every sound, and every chill could be a connection to Scotland's ghostly past. ♦

THE EVOLUTION OF UFOLOGY

From Fringe Science to Mainstream Interest

By Chad Wilson

For much of the 20th century, ufology — the study of unidentified flying objects — occupied a niche realm relegated to fringe science and enthusiasts. Public perception of UFOs and aliens was shaped by Hollywood’s dramatic portrayals and often ridiculed by the mainstream media.

Yet, in recent years, ufology has experienced a notable shift from its place on the periphery of serious scientific inquiry to a topic of mainstream and government interest. Driven by government disclosures, credible witness testimonies, and a cultural shift toward transparency, ufology has evolved, prompting the public to question if there may be more to these stories than previously thought.

Early Skepticism and Ridicule

Ufology’s modern roots trace back to the late 1940s, when sightings of strange aerial phenomena began to capture public and media attention. In 1947, pilot Kenneth Arnold famously reported seeing nine disk-shaped objects flying in formation near Mount Rainier, Washington, coining the term “flying saucers.”

Later that year, the Roswell incident — where an unidentified object allegedly crashed in New Mexico — stoked widespread curiosity and spurred the first theories of government cover-ups. The U.S. government’s investigation into the matter, known as Project Blue Book, aimed to study UFOs but largely debunked them, reinforcing a narrative that labeled UFO believers as conspiracy theorists and dreamers.

The dismissal of ufology as pseudoscience gained strength in the following decades, with skeptics pointing to alternative explanations such as weather balloons, optical illusions, or psychological phenomena. Ufologists were often portrayed as eccentric or misguided individuals, and the academic community paid little attention to UFO sightings or claims of extraterrestrial encounters.

UFO sightings continued, but public trust in official explanations was low, leading to persistent rumors of cover-ups.



Once dismissed as fringe science, ufology has transitioned into a credible field of study, gaining mainstream and governmental interest through credible testimonies, government disclosures, and cultural shifts toward transparency.

Shifting Tides and Credible Witnesses

A turning point in public perception occurred in the late 20th century when high-profile witnesses — including former military personnel, commercial pilots, and law enforcement officials — came forward to describe encounters with unexplained aerial phenomena.

In 1980, for instance, a series of strange lights and sightings in Rendlesham Forest, England, witnessed by U.S. Air Force personnel, gained widespread media attention and bolstered claims that something unexplained was occurring.

The credibility of such witnesses brought a newfound legitimacy to ufology, and the public grew more receptive to the idea that UFOs might be more than a hoax or figment of imagination. Several private organizations, such as the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), were founded to investigate UFO sightings and collect data, bridging

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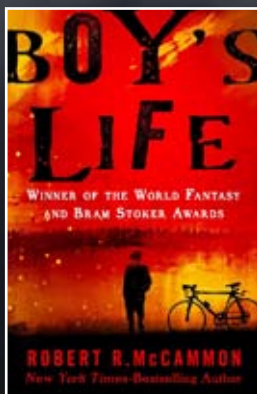
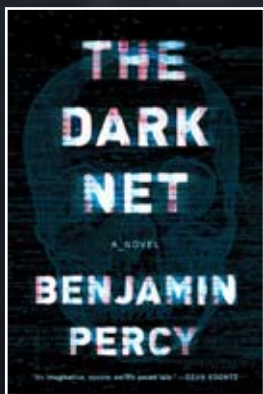
Whether it's the latest **Stephen King book**, a collection of **under-the-radar horror movies**, or an **unsolved case** that's **still haunting us** 50 years later, we're dying to share our latest dark obsessions with fellow enthusiasts.

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the gap between public curiosity and scientific interest. The internet further empowered enthusiasts to document sightings and share information, helping to foster a global community of ufology supporters.

The Government Opens Up

The most significant catalyst for the current interest in ufology came in the form of government disclosures. In 2017, a bombshell report by *The New York Times* revealed the existence of a secret Pentagon program, the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AA-TIP), which investigated UFO sightings.

The report included declassified videos captured by U.S. Navy pilots showing objects performing maneuvers beyond the capabilities of known human technology. This disclosure spurred a renewed wave of interest in UFOs and even led to Congressional inquiries into national security implications.

In 2020, the U.S. government formed the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) Task Force to study and report on unexplained sightings by military personnel. This program culminated in a 2021 report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), acknowledging that many of the 144 UAP encounters it investigated remained unexplained.

Rather than debunking sightings, this government transparency has sparked open discussions about the possibility of extraterrestrial life or advanced, unknown technologies.

Cultural Shifts and Scientific Curiosity

The recent government disclosures have encouraged scientists and academics to take a fresh look at the ufology field. The stigma surrounding the study of UFOs is dissipating, and prominent figures in science, such as Harvard astronomer Avi Loeb, have publicly advocated for research into extraterrestrial phenomena.

Loeb's Galileo Project, which aims to search for extraterrestrial technological artifacts, symbolizes the changing attitudes toward ufology as a field worthy of serious study.

From Fringe to Mainstream

Ufology's journey from fringe science to a subject of mainstream interest reflects broader cultural shifts toward openness and curiosity. As societal skepticism of government transparency wanes, the public has become more willing to question long-standing assumptions.

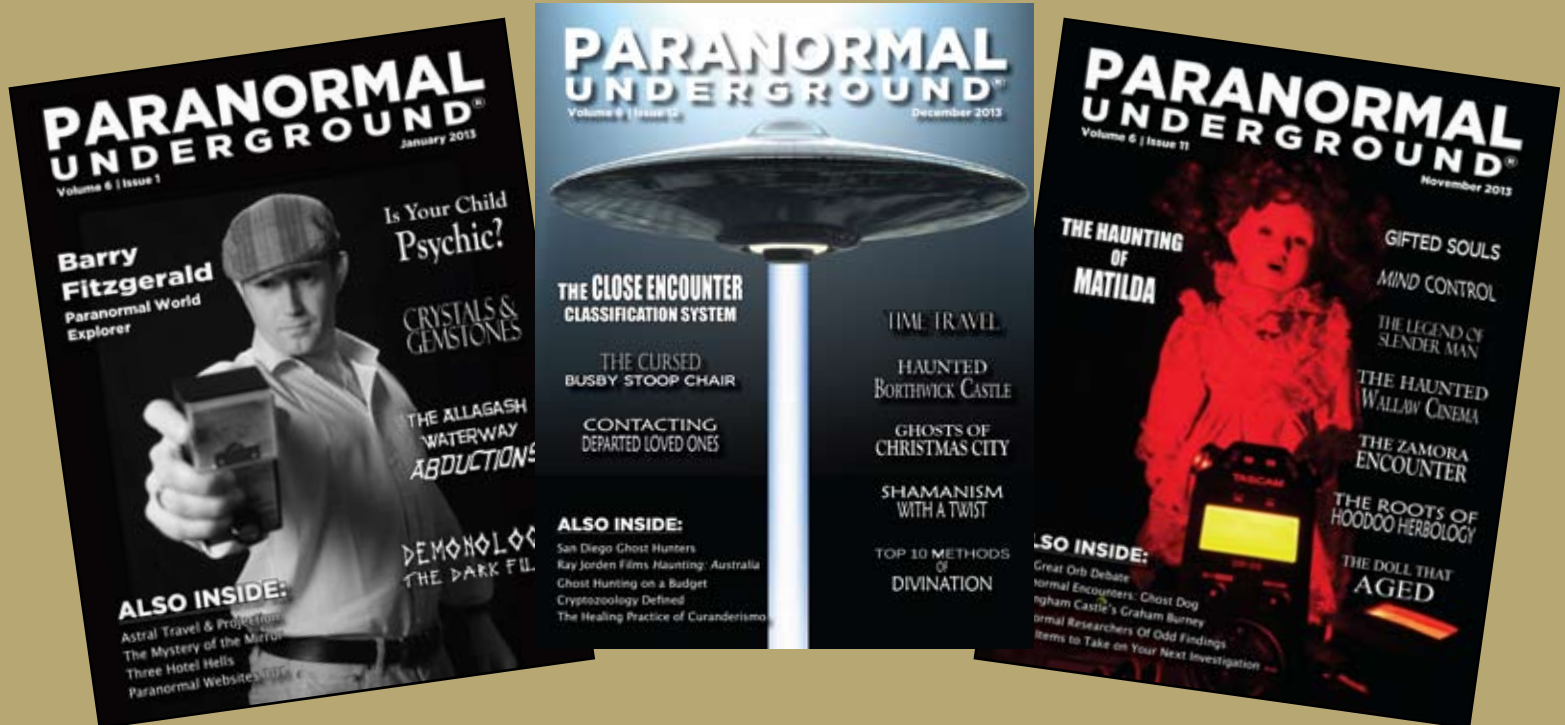
Mainstream media coverage, credible witnesses, and scientific interest have all contributed to this shift, turning ufology from a niche interest into a legitimate field of inquiry.

The evolution of ufology illustrates how societal attitudes toward the unknown can transform over time, particularly when transparency and credibility lend weight to an unusual topic. Today, ufology continues to intrigue, inviting us to consider not only the mysteries of our skies but also the profound question of whether we are alone in the Universe. ♦

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THE BANSHEE'S WAIL

IRELAND'S FOREWARNING SPIRIT OF DEATH

By Corey Sharer

The banshee, a figure rooted in Irish mythology, is often depicted as a supernatural being whose sorrowful cries foretell death. Known in Gaelic as “bean sí” (meaning “woman of the fairy mound” or “fairy woman”), this spectral figure is both feared and respected in Irish folklore.

Her haunting presence serves as a warning of impending loss, especially among families with deep Celtic roots. The banshee legend is complex, involving stories of individual families, cultural beliefs, and connections to the spirit world that have endured for centuries.

Descriptions of the banshee vary, but she is often seen as an ethereal figure dressed in white or gray, with long, flowing hair and a gaunt face. In some accounts, her hair is red, while in others it is pale or gray, and it is sometimes depicted as matted, symbolizing her grief. She can appear as a beautiful young woman, a withered old hag, or even as a combination of the two, underscoring the eerie and unpredictable nature of her presence.

In many versions of the myth, the banshee's size ranges from very small, only a foot tall, to towering and imposing, adding to her otherworldly qualities.

The primary role of the banshee in folklore is to act as a harbinger of death, especially for those of Irish heritage. Legend says that her mournful wail, often described as an eerie, piercing scream or cry, signals that a family member will soon pass away. This cry, also known as “keening,” is often linked to ancient Irish funeral traditions where women would keene, or lament loudly, at funerals. Thus, the banshee's wail is both a warning and



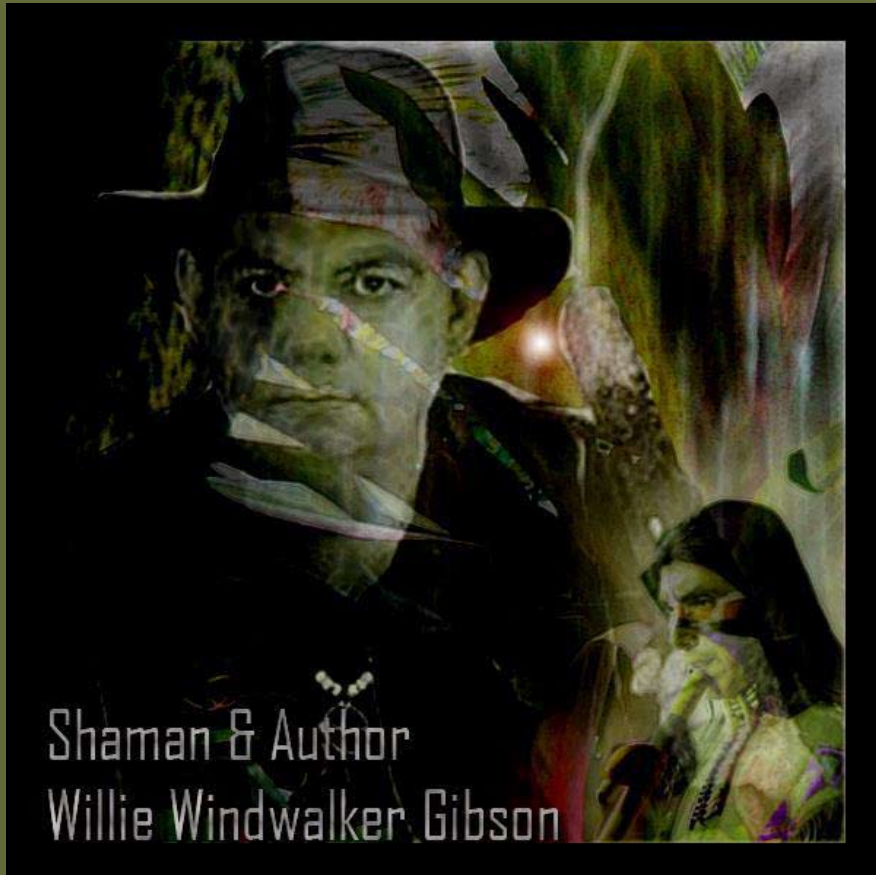
a lamentation, expressing grief even before the death occurs.

Some say that only those with pure Irish bloodlines, especially those descended from the old noble families, will experience a visitation from the banshee before a family member's death.

While commonly associated with sorrow, the banshee is not inherently malevolent. Unlike ghosts or other supernatural beings that might harm humans, the banshee does not cause death; rather, she mourns it in advance. Some interpretations suggest that she is a protective spirit, guiding lost souls and offering a last chance for loved ones to prepare for their impending loss. Her presence is often connected to family loyalty and tradition, with each prominent family supposedly having its own banshee who appears when death is near.

The banshee has also become a popular figure beyond Ireland. Her myth has spread to Scotland, Wales, and beyond, becoming a symbol of Celtic cultural identity. In modern culture, the banshee often appears in literature, film, and even video games, typically embodying a haunting or tragic figure. However, the myth's essence remains unchanged: She is a spirit whose sorrowful cries symbolize the inevitability of death, bringing a mix of terror and reverence to those who hear her.

In essence, the banshee is a profound reminder of mortality, tied to a deep tradition of mourning and reverence for the dead. Though terrifying, she also reflects the human need to connect with the mysteries of life and death, embodying an ancient cultural symbol that remains relevant in modern times. ♦



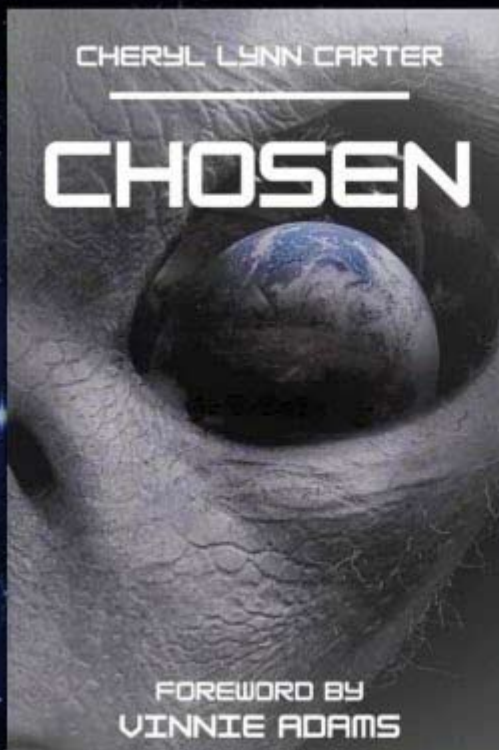
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THE PARANORMAL EXPERIENCES OF A SKEPTIC

By Paul Dale Roberts, Halo Paranormal Investigations

My father, Paul Marceau Roberts, passed away on October 1. He was born and raised in Lehigh, Oklahoma. Growing up with dad, I became very familiar with his thoughts on the paranormal. He was an extreme skeptic. I was just the opposite, I was an extreme believer, because I lived in a haunted house on Effy Street in Fresno, California.

The entities of this home centered their attention on me. It scared me to death. I was just a little boy at the time. But when we moved out of the house, everything went back to normal. When I tried to explain what happened to me in that house, my dad refused to believe me. He told me that I was just having childhood nightmares. I learned from that time on that my father was a firm skeptic.

My father witnessed several paranormal occurrences and believed they all had logical explanations. My dad always sought out the “logical” answers. I believe that is why I became a paranormal investigator. I was determined to prove to my dad that paranormal experiences are real and that they really happen.

My father didn't believe in ghosts. He said that this life we have now is all there is. There was no afterlife. My dad also believed that our planet Earth was the only planet in the Universe with life. As he got older, he changed his tune on that idea but did not believe we were being visited by aliens. He told me the distance was too far for any intelligent life to come to our planet to visit.

I would have long discussions with dad about portals, wormholes, and even black holes, and that perhaps they were ways for extraterrestrials to visit us. We would talk for a couple of hours on panspermia and my dad, at the end, wasn't buying it. Now that my dad is deceased, would he find a way to communicate with me?

On the night that he died, I heard a cough that sounded like my dad. The cough sound was heard in my house and my dad was not in my house; he was at Kaiser Hospital. My dad may have already started a way and means to communicate with me. Time will tell. Below are four paranormal experiences that my dad witnessed but believed had logical explanations.



Cattle Mutilation

While living in Lehigh, Oklahoma, my father found one of his cows dead in the field. He jumped off the tractor to get a better look and observed that the cow was missing its eyes, ears, udders, anuses, sex organs, and tongue. There was no sign of blood on the ground, and there were no tracks on the ground.

When my dad told me this story, the first thing I thought about was an extraterrestrial harvesting of a cow. There were even a few locals that claimed they saw strange lights in the night sky. But, my dad came up with a logical solution: The cow was devoured by a pack of coyotes.

My dad always had the logical answer. I believe that the cow was harvested by extraterrestrial entities. When I

told my dad what I thought about the incident, he had a hearty laugh.

Mysterious Disembodied Footsteps

The house that my dad lived in with his brother George, sister Yvonne, mother Sophie, and father Emiles was built on blood money. The sheriff of Lehigh murdered a local for his money and used the money to build the house. The sheriff was eventually caught and sent to prison for life.

At this home, my dad, Yvonne, and George would hear disembodied footsteps. Sometimes there would be a tapping on the wall. My Uncle George felt a strong breath on the back of his neck. He believed that the house was haunted.

My dad's answer to these mysterious events was that the house was old and possible varmints living inside the walls were causing the strange noises.

USOs at Monterey Bay

When we lived on Ralston Drive in Monterey, there was one night we were driving around Monterey and observed three strange lights in the sky that seemed to be zipping around. The lights then mysteriously dove into the ocean.

I asked my dad what the lights could be. He said it was some kind of military craft coming out of Fort Ord and doing a training exercise. I didn't buy my dad's

answer. I felt there was something more to it. In fact, later on in life when I became a paranormal investigator/ufologist, I was called to investigate UAPs going into Monterey Bay from a home in Seaside. People were hearing strange humming sounds coming from the bay.

I believe that there is an alien base deep in the waters of Monterey Bay. Of course, my dad didn't believe that and blamed it on the military.

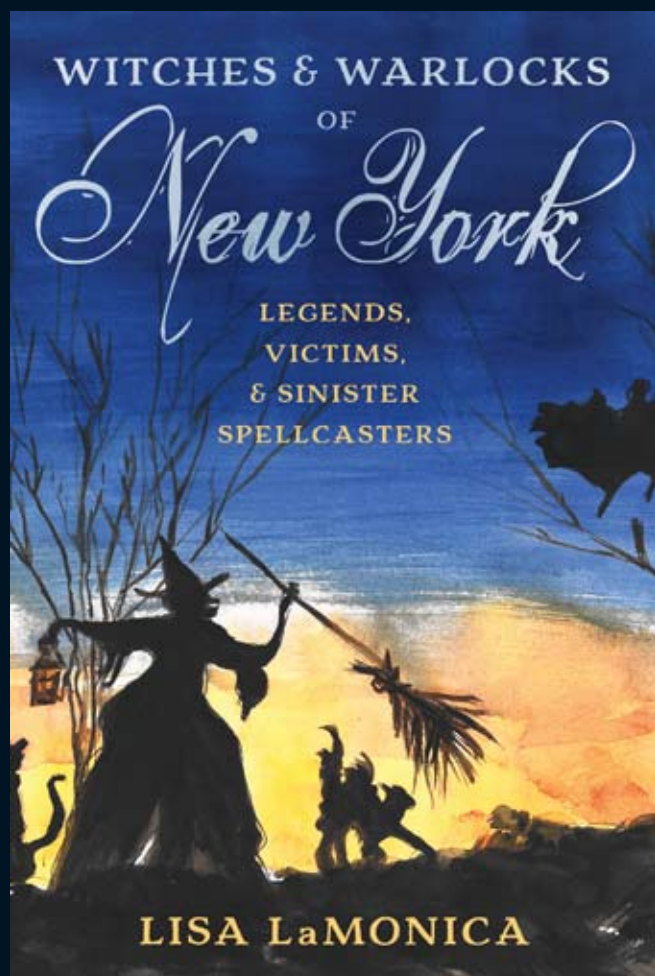
Mom in the Hallway

When my mother passed away, my dad saw her three days after her death, walking down the hallway of my dad's house. He was cleaning the bathtub and saw my mom. When my dad told me that, I then asked him, "Now do you believe in the afterlife?"

But, my dad answered that he was thinking of my mom so much that he must have imagined it.

I love my dad, but he was the biggest skeptic that I have ever known. It was always a blast to debate with him about the paranormal. I believe it was my dad being a skeptic that made me determined to somehow, someday make my dad a believer. The closest I got is where my dad finally believed that there could be life out there, on other planets.

Love ya, Dad. One day, we will debate again. RIP. ♦



New York has a surprisingly rich and lasting history of witches and witchcraft.

“Witches and Warlocks of New York” is a collection of legends and historical accounts about witches and warlocks from the Empire State.

Included are a history and origins of witchcraft in New York State and historical tales of “witches” across the state, including Hulda, the witch who was the origin behind a Brothers Grimm fairy tale and inspired parts of Washington Irving’s “Sleepy Hollow.” Plus, the East-hampton Witch Elizabeth Garlick, accused and tried 35 years before the Salem witch trials.

Available on Amazon

THE GRIM REAPER ENCOUNTERS

HPI'S STRANGEST CASE

BY PAUL DALE ROBERTS, HALO PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Grim Reaper, a personification of Death, first appeared in Europe during the 14th century's Bubonic Plague, an outbreak so devastating it took around 50 million lives. This personification arose in art and folklore during this period, with artists portraying Death as a skeletal figure dressed in a black cloak, holding a scythe — a symbol that still endures.

Some Europeans even report sightings of mysterious figures in black robes wielding scythe-like objects during the pandemic, leading to theories of extraterrestrial involvement. Albrecht Muller, a UFO enthusiast from Bremen, Germany, suggested that these Grim Reaper sightings may have been part of a depopulation effort by aliens.

In one of the most peculiar cases I've investigated, I was called to the home of Stockton, California, resident Mark Bales, who reported ongoing Grim Reaper sightings. Mark said that he saw the black-robed figure moving through his house and yard. Intrigued by his experiences, I took a team to investigate his home.

During the investigation, we captured an EVP, but its contents were inconclusive — some heard words, but to me and other investigators, it sounded like gibberish. With little concrete evidence, I blessed the house before leaving, and Mark eventually joined HPI as an investigator.

Unfortunately, three weeks after our investigation, Mark's father passed away, which he attributed to the Grim Reaper's influence.

Following his father's death, Mark became fixated on the Grim Reaper, even dressing as the character for Halloween, complete with a scythe. One evening, after a grocery run, Mark was approached by two boys, around ages 12 and 14, who asked for a ride. When he declined,

he noticed their eyes were completely black. Panicking, he hurried into his car and sped away, but in his rearview mirror, he saw them waving at him.

Later, he spotted the same children peering into his home, alongside what appeared to be the Grim Reaper in his hallway. Believing he had encountered the fabled Black-Eyed Kids, Mark called me in distress. I returned to his home with the team for an emergency investigation, but once again, we found no evidence. I blessed the home once more.

Just two weeks after this second investigation, Mark's mother passed away. Convinced the Grim Reaper had claimed her, Mark continued to see the figure around his property. Tragically, Mark himself died from a heart attack shortly after his mother's death, bringing the family's death toll to three within a short span.

Reflecting on these events, I'm left questioning whether Mark's intense fear and focus on the Grim Reaper may have manifested the figure into reality, possibly creating a tulpa — a paranormal entity formed through concentrated thought.

Looking back, the rapid succession of losses and Mark's haunting experiences with the Grim Reaper and the Black-Eyed Kids remain inexplicable. While we collected no concrete evidence, this case lingers as a chilling reminder of the mysteries surrounding the supernatural and the unknown.

Mark was a dedicated investigator, and his experiences serve as a testament to the strange and tragic in paranormal phenomena. ♦



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Santa Muerte – The Lady of Holy Death

Mixing Symbolism With Religious Spiritual Practices

By Rainbow Radaelli

This topic kind of landed in my lap while I was in New Mexico this past summer. Little did I know that it was something that was actually on my altar but I didn't know it. Let me explain.

I tend to collect things that for me signify a variety of symbols that culminate everything that remind me of my spiritual path. This includes different images of the Virgin Mary. But what I didn't know is that the Virgin of Guadalupe isn't just the impression of the Virgin Mary, but also is the Virgin of Tepeyac or Tonantzin Guadalupe, the goddess of fertility and corn production in the Aztec religion. Though I don't follow Santa Muerte, I kind of had something that was connected to her.

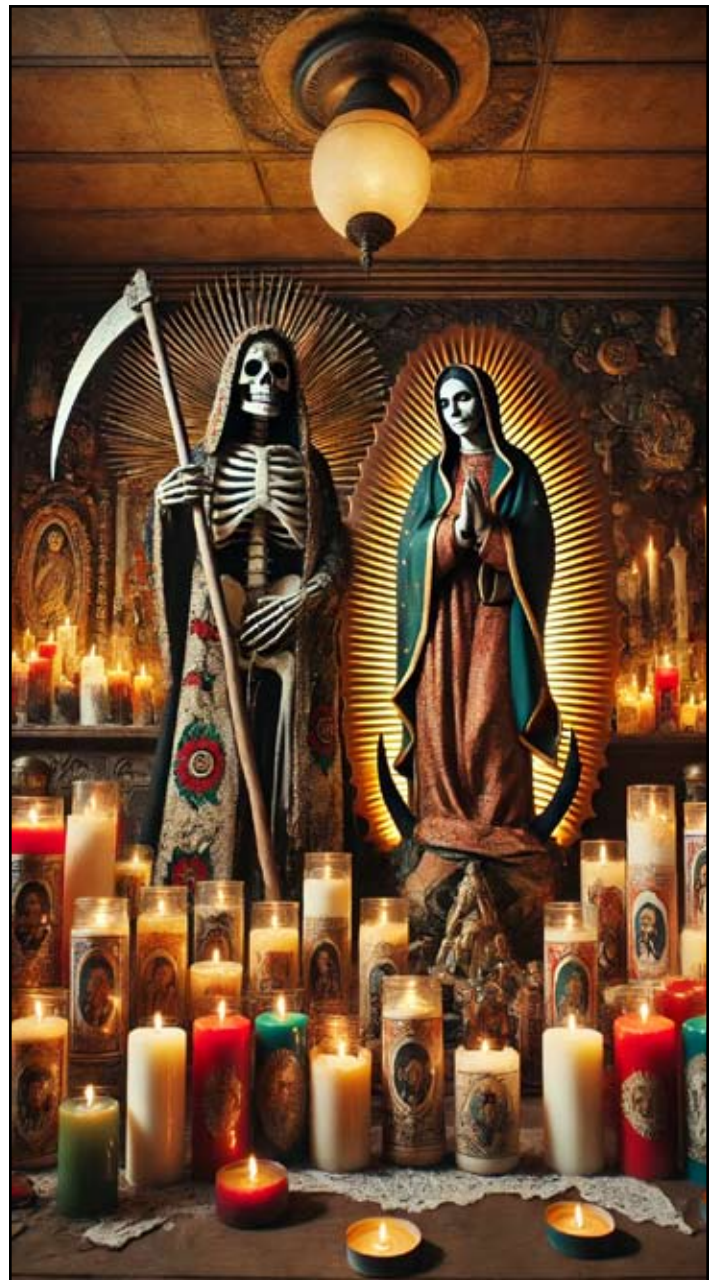
Santa Muerte: The Lady of Holy Death

Santa Muerte is one of the fastest-growing religions in the United States today. Her origins come from the Aztecs, but some scholars have stated that there are semblances of European and African lineages. She originates from Mictecacihuatl, the Aztec goddess of death, who ruled the underworld with her husband Mictlantecuhtli, the god of death.

Many religions have borrowed aspects of other religions, based on centuries of followers traveling, taking their beliefs with them. With Santa Muerte, it's believed she became more prevalent based on the mixing of Aztec spiritual practices with the Catholic religion.

The statue of Santa Muerte doesn't have the same distinguishing form as the Virgin of Guadalupe image because her image is that of a female skeleton. She is considered a saint by her followers but is not recognized by the Catholic Church, which considers Santa Muerte more of a satanic cult because of the dark arts associated with it.

Her followers are considered, by all accounts, those who live on the outskirts of society, such as criminals, drug addicts, cartels, gangs, and prostitutes. But with her popularity rising, it's not just the supposed misfits of soci-





ety who follow her anymore, it's the average citizen. They venerate her because of one very important element that she signifies, "no judgment."

This means that they can ask for anything without the concern of religious retribution. They can hide behind the idea that she won't judge them no matter how extreme a prayer is. Examples of this can be asking for more wealth, a new car, or marrying a person's true love. Opposite of this can be breaking up a marriage, sickness upon a rival, or the invocation of a vengeful death.

The Human Story of Santa Muerte

As the story goes, a beautiful, young woman fell in love with a scoundrel of a man who left her broken-hearted. She had no desire to live, so she committed the mortal sin of suicide by drowning herself in a river.

God had pity on her and decided instead of sending her straight to Hell, he would find a place for her in the afterlife. He decided to place her as the spirit that welcomes souls who have passed away, guiding them to their final destination. She is not the reaper, but she is connected to death in this way. But I have to add she does hold a scythe in one hand.

Santa Muerte represents people's relationship with death. Many followers have a Latin quote tattooed on them from ancient Rome, "Memento Mori," which means "Remember you must die."

Santa Muerte is also connected to Días de los

Muertos, also known as All Souls Day, celebrated in the beginning of November. It is believed that on Halloween, the gates of Heaven open at midnight, and on November 1st the spirits of children can rejoin their families for 24 hours while adults can rejoin their families on the 2nd, for 24 hours.

The 2005 Pixar cartoon *Coco* is a great example of this. This is why skeletons are so prominently used during this time of year. They represent deceased family members.

'Breaking Bad' TV Series

In the 2010 TV series *Breaking Bad*, in season three, there was an episode titled "No Mas." In the opening scene, two assassin twins drive to a Santa Muerte shrine in a rural village in Mexico. They, along with other followers, crawl on their bellies with outstretched hands and knees heading to a Santa Muerte shrine.

Once the camera cuts to the inside of the shrine, the camera pans to an altar full of multi-colored candles and written prayers. In the middle of the altar is a large skeletal statue of Santa Muerte herself, adorned in elaborate clothes with a scythe in her right hand.

That one scene in TV history changed the hidden impetus of Santa Muerte. It did the one thing that the Catholic Church or the Mexican government wasn't willing to do — it exposed and solidified the truth of her growing popularity among the Mexican people, many of whom are Catholics themselves.

—————>

Something Borrowed

As is with most religions, there tends to be an unwritten edict that absconding from each other is copacetic. Rituals, eulogies, and ceremonies along with religious icons are commonly intertwined elements of this borrowed ideology.

Santa Muerte is no different, but what I find interesting is where her shrines reside. Many are behind churches or right by churches in the homes of supposed devout parishioners. The shrines look exactly like those devoted to the Virgin Mary.

Candles, rosaries, and novenas are taken and repurposed by followers who implement them into their prayers, rituals, and ceremonies to Santa Muerte. There are 12 candle colors that represent something different and are specific to the requests of each prayer.

For example, white represents healing and cleansing, red represents love and attraction, black represents protection and destruction, and gold represents money and good luck.

In the Catholic Church, colored candles represent certain Saints, the Virgin Mary, and Jesus, just to name a few. Popular colors that are used include purple for penance, blue for hope, gold for love, and white for peace. Novena candles are seven-day candles that are very popular, and I use them myself.

A huge difference between the Catholic Church and the religion of Santa Muerte is that she alone is who they pray to, not unlike the Catholic religion, which offers a multitude of religious icons. This is why she is so sacred to her followers. They feel she, and she alone, understands them and will grant their prayers. For the Catholic Church, that is sacrilege.

Symbology in Her Vestments and Punishment

Devotees who have shrines in their homes will adorn Santa Muerte in clothes based on what type of prayer they are asking. She can be dressed in a wedding dress, ball gown, cape and crown, or a sack cloth. She usually is in a long-hooded cloak, holding a scythe and a globe.

The color of her clothes, just as with candles, have a meaning depending on what type of ritual is performed. Some practitioners known as high witches or mystics, who perform spells and incantations, are known to discipline Santa Muerte if they don't get the results they prayed for.

Some mystics are known to put her in unattractive clothing, turn her around to face the wall, turn the lights off, keep her in a secluded room, or light incense that is unpleasant to smell. This practice is what makes this more cult-like than that of a religion, because most followers don't punish the icons they believe in.

Symbolism Associated With Santa Muerte

All religions have symbolic examples that are associated with their specific beliefs and ideologies. Patronages throughout history tend to add more of these symbols so that the outside world is more connected to a specific religion. The religion of Santa Muerte has many symbolic examples of her own.

Skeletons and bones are a great example of this, because she is depicted more as a full-body skeletal saint. The globe she holds in one of her hands represents

death's power over humanity and its inescapable global presence. The oil lamp signifies intelligence and spirit, lighting the way through darkness that would otherwise have followers in ignorance and doubt. The owl represents the ability to navigate through darkness, just like the Aztec deities of

Mictecacihuatl and Mictlantecuhtli.

Some practitioners believe that wearing a white cape will give them personal protection while performing their spells and rituals. Some take their belief in Santa Muerte to the next level, believing she gives them superhuman power. The hourglass is also associated with Santa Muerte, signifying the time of life on Earth, patience, and belief that death is not the end.

The scythe Santa Muerte holds in her right hand signifies the separation of body and soul from the time of death and severing a person's bondage to negative people or things during life. Interesting because the scythe with the Grim Reaper represents that he is the harvester of souls for the afterlife.

It's almost as if they are one and the same, yet Santa Muerte is a divine feminine image while the Grim Reaper derives from the Greek God Chronos, also known as Father Time, the harvest God who carried a sickle. As I stated before, it's inevitable that ideologies borrow from each other, and this is a prime example.

In the end of this discovery, I realized that it's part of the human condition to want more from life and to seek out those who can make miracles and wishes come true. Isn't this the way many religions start, with the hope that life's adversities and travails will be overcome by fortune and solace with the understanding of truth?

My final question was, can Santa Muerte calm the stormy waters of death that her followers fear? But I then remembered the connection to death that Santa Muerte represents. As I thought about it, I remembered a quote from the former Roman Emperor and philosopher Marcus Aurelius, when he said, "Death smiles at us all; all a man can do is smile back." ♦

Santa Muerte is said to offer what others cannot — judgment-free solace in a world that often shuns those who seek her.



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The Tehran UFO Incident

By Cheryl Lynn Carter



“Sometime in his career, each pilot can expect to encounter strange, unusual happenings which will never be adequately or entirely explained by logic or subsequent investigation.” — Captain Henry S. Shields, USAF

On September 19, 1976, experienced air traffic controller Hossein Pirouzi was manning the Imperial Iranian Air Force command post, located at the Mehrabad International Airport in Tehran, Iran. It had been an entirely routine evening until 00:30 hours.

In quick succession, he received four calls from concerned citizens in the Shemiran area reporting a series of strange objects that were observed in the sky. These unidentified flying objects (UFOs) were described as luminous red, yellow, and orange and were shaped like the four-blades of a helicopter. One of the witnesses observed a similar object and thought she saw it detach.

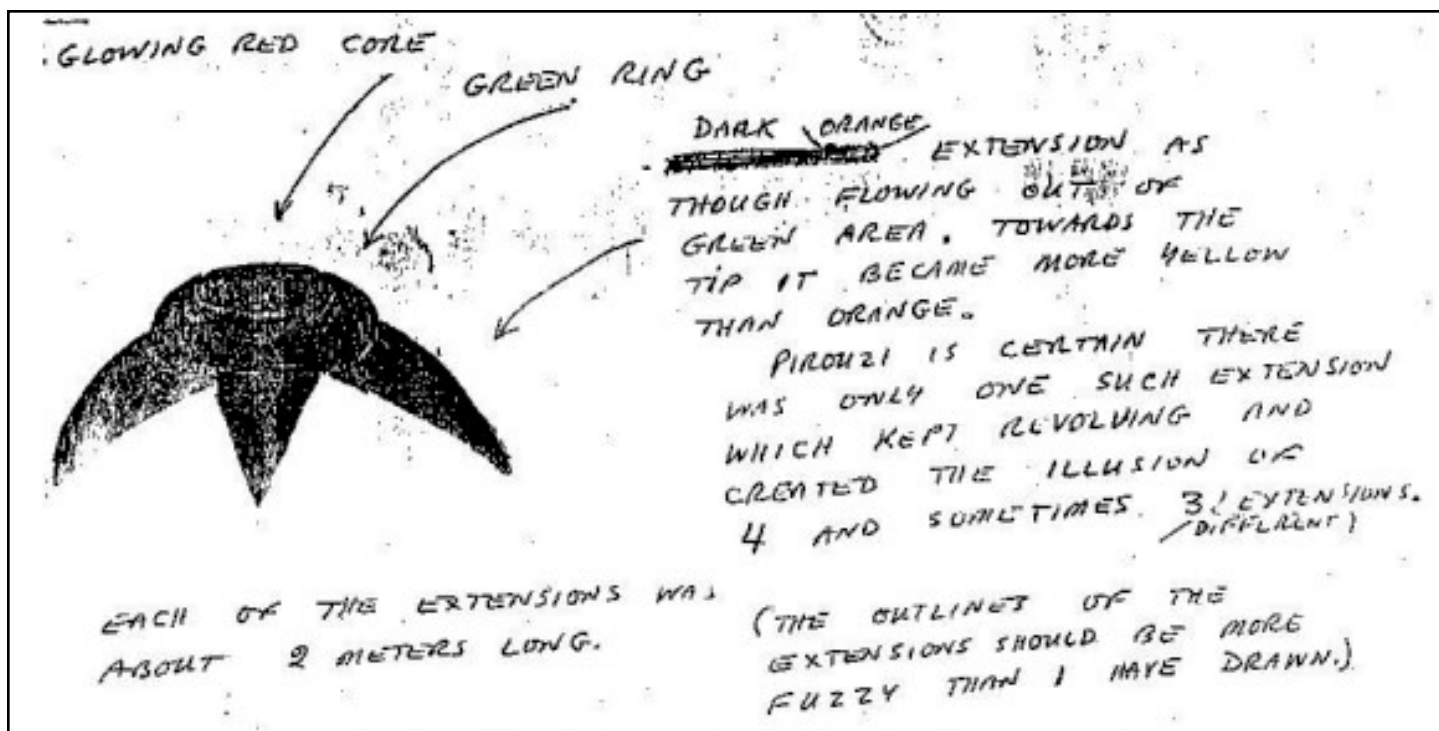
Upon checking, there were no helicopters airborne at the time. Pirouzi was unable to convince the callers that they were only seeing stars, so he decided to step outside and look through his binoculars in the direction of the

supposed sightings. As he did, he observed a luminous, cylindrical object hovering horizontally in the sky approximately 6,000 feet off the ground. He estimated it to be 26 feet wide. On each end was a glowing blue and red light, making an orbit around the center about every two seconds and pausing every 90 degrees.

As it came closer, it began to slowly change into a drooping star shape, with a green body and red glowing core. There appeared to be “arms” that were orange and faded to yellow at the tips. However, he thought it might be only one arm that was quickly changing positions.

Erratic UFO Maneuvers Prompt Imperial Iranian Air Force Response

The object moved erratically to the north and then the south. It instantaneously jumped its position only to reappear a few miles away. As it got closer, it could clearly be seen with the naked eye. He described it as a drooping starfish shape, flashing colors of red, orange, blue, and yellow. When two other trainees looked through the binoculars, they described the object as horse shoe shape,



Witnesses described the UFO's lights as flashing rapidly in green, blue, red, and orange, arranged in shifting patterns that defied standard aviation regulations.

indicating it was most likely changing shapes. In the next half hour, four aircraft that had flown over the area heard an emergency beeper on their radio; however, there was no record of any crash.

Recognizing the seriousness of the situation, Pirouzi notified the Imperial Iranian Air Force and spoke with Brigadier General Nadar Yousefi the Assistant Deputy Commander of Operations. Yousefi said that he himself had observed this object from his house and was certain it was not a star. It appeared to be moving on its own accord and under obvious intelligent control.

Yousefi called the Shahroki Air Force Base in Hamadan and authorized the scramble of an F-4 Phantom II jet in order to get closer the object. The pilot Lieutenant Yaddi Nazeri observed the object from about 62 miles away. It was radiating violet, orange, and white and appeared to be approximately 12,000 feet off the ground. However, it was too bright to make out a shape.

He was instructed to proceed with caution and only get a visual inspection. As he approached to within 30 miles, the object moved farther away. Continuing at Mach 2, he was not able to get any closer. Then he decided to turn back toward Tehran. However, when he did, another object detached from the main craft, approached from behind and passing him at a great speed.

When he was able to gain on the object, he suddenly lost all functionality of his radio and navigational instruments but regained them as he pulled back. A second

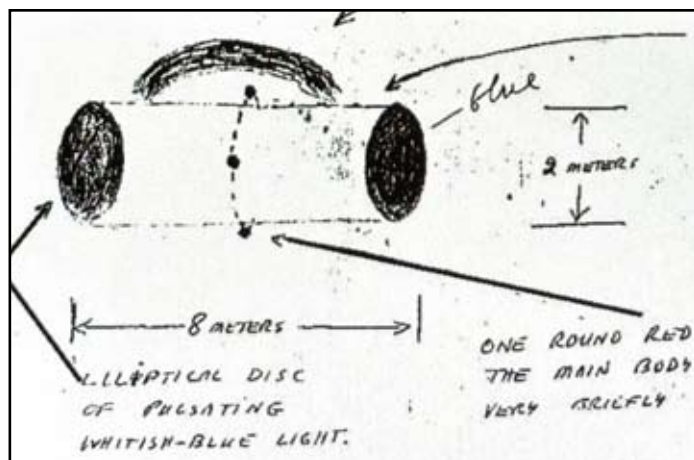
time, he approached the object and once again lost radio and communication functions. Had the UFO compromised the jet's functions with a strong electromagnetic charge as it approached? Moreover, had it then allowed the instruments to work after it dropped from its pursuit?

Pilot Attempts Missile Launch on Mysterious UFO

At 1:40, as the first jet was running low on fuel, Yousif scrambled a second Phantom II jet piloted by Lieutenant Parviz Jafari, the Imperial Air Force Squadron Commander, and First Lieutenant Jalal Damirian, radar operator. The radar operator locked on the UFO at 27NM (nautical miles)/12 o'clock high position at a rate of closure of 150 knots. Upon reaching the 25NM point, the object began rapidly moving away to maintain a constant separation distance while still visible on the radar scope.

The radar signature suggested the object resembled a Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker. Unfortunately, like the previous pilot, it was difficult to discern the size due to the intense light. Once again, the object appeared to change shape. The lights alternated between green, blue, red, and orange and were arranged in a square-like pattern. Even though the lights were flashing in sequence, it happened so rapidly that they could all be seen at the same time.

The object and the pursuing Phantom II continued on a course to the south of Tehran. Each time they began to gain on the object within approximately 30 miles, it would appear to jump in the sky. In fact, it once jumped



The UFO appeared elliptical from a distance, though it seemed to change shape as it approached.

more than 28 miles in an instant and changed shape. At one point, a small brightly lighted object about the size of the moon detached from the object and approached the Phantom II at an alarming rate. Fearing for his life, Jafari attempted to launch an AIM-9 infrared guided missile at it, but he soon realized the jet had lost all weapons control.

At this point he initiated a turn and negative G dive in order to escape. However, the object pursued him at 4NM distance. It flew up behind the jet and then passed overhead. As it did, Jafari lost all communication with the tower. The object turned and subsequently returned to the larger object. Just as the two objects had joined, another small object separated from the UFO. It appeared self-illuminated and began rapidly descending.

They anticipated a large explosion, thinking it was about to crash at a dry lake bed near the Rey Oil Refinery on the outskirts of Mehrabad. Instead, it successfully landed, casting a brilliant light extending about two miles, which made the surrounding area look like daylight.

The large UFO was now hovering over the small one. He was instructed to approach, and they once again lost navigation function. Yousefi ordered them to shoot down the UFO, but the firing panel would not function.

Noticing they were getting low on fuel, Jafari began returning to Mehrabad. As he began descent to the runway, he observed another cylindrical object about the size of a T-33 Trainer with bright steady lights on each end and a flasher in the middle. It quickly approached and passed directly overhead, heading south. It was once again observed by a pilot over Lisbon, before the UFO and associated phenomena vanished at about 04:00 hours.

Jafari made note of the coordinates where they saw the object land by the Rey Oil Refinery. After the Iranian Air Force interviewed the two pilots the next morning, a helicopter took Jafari and his radar officer to search for

the landing site. There was no indication that anything had landed there.

A ground search testing for radiation was conducted, but no results were reported. The only evidence came from several witnesses that reported hearing a high-pitched beeping sound over their farmhouses.

UFO Sighting Defies Aviation Standards

Upon inspection of the aircrafts the next day, technicians reported that the machinery was fine. Furthermore, it was the first time they had ever heard of a self-correcting malfunction. Researchers called attention to international aviation regulations in order to better understand the sighting. In particular, the primary object's alternating green, blue, red, and orange lights were of the upmost interest. FAA Federal Aviation Regulation 43 and the International Civil Aviation Organization stated that blue lights are not authorized or legal on U.S. aircraft. This suggests that the object's lighting configuration did not conform to any known Aviation standards.

The following morning, the *Tehran Journal* featured a story about the UFO event. Other articles appeared in various newspapers, with some confirming the events and others denying. It was rumored that the police became involved however no official investigations records exist. The ensuing events eventually made their way into the hands of top United States officials. Lieutenant Colonel Olin Mooy of the United States Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG) was present for the two pilot's testimony. Both men were certain that what they had encountered was not terrestrial.

Afterwards, Mooy prepared a classified teletype message that summarized the results of the conversation, which was sent to numerous interested intelligence agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Secretary of State, and the White House. Colonel Frank McKenzie of the United States Defense Attaché Office in Tehran sent a similar message to the Pentagon.

On October 12, Major William Evans deemed this "Valuable information that is uniquely timely and of major significance. It is potentially useful to American Intelligence and meets all the criteria for a valid study of the UFO phenomenon." This was in spite of the fact that the American government had recently closed their UFO investigation group, called Project Blue Book, on the basis that studying UFOs could not provide any benefit to science nor national security.

The Tehran Incident is one of the best documented UFO cases on record. It serves as a reminder that it is possible for government and military officials to be open about their encounters with unidentified flying objects without citing mass panic. ♦



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METAPHYSICS OF IDENTITY

WHAT MAKES YOU, YOU?

By Chad Wilson

The question of personal identity — what makes you, you — is one of the oldest and most profound topics in philosophy. It dives into the metaphysical depths of who we are, what defines our identity, and whether that identity persists over time.

To better understand the question of the self, we need to take a look at some of the main theories on personal identity, including psychological continuity, bodily continuity, and soul theory. Each approach offers unique insights into how we understand ourselves and raises new questions about the essence of our existence.

The Nature of Personal Identity

Personal identity in metaphysics centers around the question of what makes an individual the same over time. If someone undergoes drastic physical or psychological changes, what, if anything, remains the same to preserve that person's identity? Consider a person who loses all their memories or who undergoes significant bodily changes. Do they remain the same individual? Metaphysicians and philosophers attempt to answer these questions by proposing various theories that try to pin down what it means to have a stable identity across time and transformation.

Identity, in its simplest form, seems to rely on some form of continuity. But the nature of that continuity — whether it lies in the mind, the body, or something more spiritual — is the subject of much debate. These theories of identity are not only academic; they have real implications for how we understand relationships, responsibilities, and the idea of the self.



Psychological Continuity: The Mind as the Seat of Identity

One of the most popular theories in metaphysics is the concept of psychological continuity. This theory suggests that personal identity is preserved through a continuous stream of mental states, memories, beliefs, desires, and intentions.

Philosopher John Locke is often credited with developing this idea, suggesting that memory is the key to personal identity. If a person remembers the experiences of a past self, they are connected to that self and are, in essence, the same person.

Psychological continuity offers an appealing framework for understanding identity because it aligns with our sense of self. We often feel that our identity is tied to our

thoughts, memories, and emotions. However, this theory is not without its challenges. For instance, if someone suffers from amnesia and loses their memories, are they still the same person?

The psychological continuity theory would imply they might not be, as their mental link to their past self is broken. Similarly, in cases of personality disorders where a person may have multiple distinct identities, this theory raises questions about how we define a singular identity within the mind.

The psychological approach, while powerful, highlights the fragility of memory and consciousness. If our memories and psychological states shift or fade, does our identity shift as well? For some, this implication can be unsettling, suggesting that identity is somewhat fluid and mutable rather than fixed and eternal.





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Bodily Continuity: The Physical Self as the Anchor of Identity

In contrast to psychological continuity, bodily continuity holds that a person's identity is inherently tied to their physical body. This theory suggests that as long as the same physical organism persists, the individual remains the same. Proponents of bodily continuity argue that identity cannot be separated from the physical body because our bodies provide a tangible anchor for existence. After all, we recognize people based on their physical presence, not their memories or internal experiences.

However, bodily continuity also faces complications. If someone undergoes significant bodily changes — such as through transplants or prosthetics — are they still the same person? Additionally, medical advancements, such as brain transplants (hypothetical at present), challenge this theory. If a person's brain were placed in a different body, would the individual remain the same, or would they become someone else?

The bodily continuity theory would suggest that identity is inherently tied to the original body, but such scenarios complicate this view, revealing potential limita-

tions in understanding identity purely as a bodily phenomenon.

Moreover, bodily continuity does not account for the experience of self. We often feel that our identities lie within our minds rather than in our physical form. This dissonance between mental experience and bodily identity fuels debates on the nature of personal identity and whether bodily continuity alone is sufficient to capture what makes us, us.

Soul Theory: The Metaphysical Essence of Identity

Another approach, often rooted in religious or spiritual perspectives, is soul theory. According to this view, identity is tied to an immaterial soul that remains constant over time. This theory posits that each individual has a unique essence or soul, which serves as the core of their identity. No matter what physical or psychological changes occur, the soul remains unchanged and, thus, the person remains the same.

Soul theory has ancient roots and offers a solution to the problems raised by both psychological and bodily continuity. It provides a way of understanding personal identity that transcends physical or mental alterations, as the soul is perceived as an eternal, unchanging essence. This approach is prevalent in many religious traditions, where the soul is seen as the true self, existing beyond the physical body and continuing even after death.

However, soul theory faces challenges in metaphysics due to its reliance on an unobservable, often unquantifiable concept. Critics argue that without empirical evidence for the soul, it is difficult to validate this theory. Additionally, soul theory raises questions about how the soul interacts with the body and mind and whether it can provide a satisfactory explanation for identity in the absence of physical or mental continuity.

The Complex Tapestry of Identity

The metaphysical exploration of identity raises profound questions about what it means to be human. Whether one aligns with psychological continuity, bodily continuity, or soul theory, each approach provides unique insights into the nature of identity, revealing both strengths and limitations. The truth may lie in a combination of these perspectives, acknowledging that identity is a complex, multifaceted construct that may be grounded in both physical continuity and the intangible essence of the self.

Ultimately, the question of personal identity remains open, inviting further inquiry and exploration. As we continue to ponder what makes each of us distinct, we are reminded that identity is not a static concept but a dynamic and ever-evolving mystery, deeply tied to the human experience. ♦

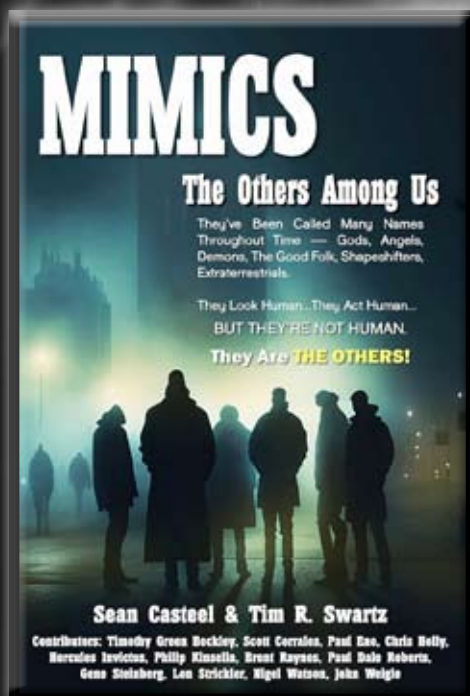


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PATAGONIA AGATE: UNLOCKING THE MYSTICAL ENERGIES OF THE SOUTHERN WILDERNESS

By Dr. Athena Perrakis, Sage Goddess

Imagine a gemstone that embodies the pristine, untamed spirit of one of the world's most remote and mystical regions — Patagonia. This stone's formation in the high-altitude mines of Patagonia, at the southern tip of South America, infuses it with the pure and primordial energy of this untouched landscape.

Patagonia agate is a rare and newly discovered crystal that captures the essence of this wild frontier. Glistening with pure white, interspersed with pockets of purple and earthy swirls, this stone is a unique blend of earthly and celestial beauty.

Whether you are drawn to its stunning appearance or its deep spiritual significance, Patagonia agate is a gem like no other.

The Origins of Patagonia Agate

Patagonia is more than just a geographical location; it's a realm of magic and ancient wisdom. The indigenous Aonikenk people, who have lived in this region for millennia, believe that the spirits of their ancestors dwell in the majestic peaks and serene lakes of Patagonia. This land, with its dramatic landscapes and untamed beauty, has long been a source of spiritual inspiration and profound tranquility.

Patagonia agate is found deep within the rugged, high-altitude mines of this mystical region. The stone's white base, topped with brown and purple swirls and sparkling druzy pockets, reflects the snowy peaks and earthy tones of Patagonia.

These druzy pockets, tiny cavities filled with quartz crystals, amplify the stone's natural energy, making it a beacon of peace, balance, and spiritual ascension.

Patagonia Agate Benefits

- Radiates Peace and Healing:

This stone's serene vibrations help you radiate peace and healing energies, making it an excellent companion during meditation or in times of stress.



Patagonia agate, found primarily in Argentina's Patagonia region, is a beautiful semi-precious stone known for its unique patterns and colors, often displaying striking bands of blue, pink, red, and orange.



Patagonia agate is a rare and newly discovered crystal that reflects the untamed beauty of its namesake region, with swirling hues of white, purple, and earthy tones. This powerful stone offers a range of benefits, including promoting peace, balancing energies, and releasing negativity for spiritual growth and emotional stability.

- **Balances Masculine and Feminine Energies:**

Patagonia agate harmonizes the masculine and feminine aspects within you, fostering a balanced and integrated self. This balance is crucial for personal growth and emotional stability.

- **Releases Energetic Toxins and Negativity:**

Working with Patagonia agate helps you release what no longer serves you, including negative energy and past traumas. It clears your energy field, paving the way for renewal and positive transformation.

- **Improves Focus and Concentration:**

Keep this gem close in moments of overwhelm and uncertainty. Its grounding energy improves focus and concentration, helping you stay centered and clear-minded.

- **Stimulates the Crown Chakra:**

Patagonia Agate opens and stimulates the Crown Chakra, enhancing your connection to higher realms and attracting guidance from your angels and spirit guides.

- **Encourages Trust and Courage:**

This crystal aids in releasing trauma and fear, fostering a greater sense of trust and courage as you navigate life's challenges.

How to Use Patagonia Agate

1. **Meditation:** Hold Patagonia Agate during meditation to connect deeply with tranquil and balancing energies. Visualize its earthy and celestial hues enveloping you,

helping you ascend to higher spiritual heights.

2. **Carry It Daily:** Carry this stone with you to maintain a steady flow of peace and focus throughout your day. Its calming energy will support you in staying grounded and centered, even in the face of stress and uncertainty.

3. **Crystal Grids and Altars:** Incorporate Patagonia Agate into your crystal grids or place it on your altar to amplify your intentions for balance, healing, and spiritual growth. Its presence will enhance the overall energy of your sacred space.

4. **Personal Reflection:** Use this gem during times of personal reflection to release past traumas and negative energy. Let it guide you in embracing trust, courage, and the harmonious integration of your masculine and feminine energies.

Crystal Magic of Patagonia

Patagonia Agate is more than a crystal; it's a connection to the wild, untouched spirit of Patagonia itself. By working with this rare and powerful stone, you can tap into the ancient wisdom and celestial energies of this extraordinary region.

Whether you are seeking peace, balance, spiritual growth, or simply a deeper connection to the natural world, Patagonia Agate offers a pathway to profound transformation and healing. ♦

HALLOWEEN IN THE SHADOWS

A CHILDHOOD WITH SPIRITS

By Willie Windwalker Gibson

When I was a kid, my dad was afraid to let us go trick-or-treating. He worried about us wandering the dark streets of Louisville, Kentucky, collecting candy from strangers. But we weren't afraid — we just wanted the candy and to go as far as we could in the neighborhoods.

As a child, I was different from the other kids — I looked different, being Native American, and I was chubby with a limp from a bad foot. I was one of those kids who never got picked for playground teams and often sat on the sidelines, chatting with invisible friends no one else could see.

For me, Halloween was a little different. I could see and hear spirits, watching them walk down the streets with us or peering out of empty house windows. I never told my brothers and sisters, not wanting to spoil their fun.

We were poor back then, so we wore 25-cent masks from the five-and-dime and used paper bags for our candy. We didn't care that other kids had elaborate costumes and decorated bags. We were just thrilled to be out trick-or-treating.

Every now and then, as we collected candy, I'd notice darker spirits lurking in the shadows, waiting to stir up trouble. Back then, I didn't know how to protect myself or my siblings from them. So, I'd tell the spirits to leave us alone or I'd call on my angels to handle them. They'd usually back off, almost like they knew I was a shaman in the making.

Halloween was still special to me, because the magic of the night meant so much more than just candy. Halloween was a magical time when kids dressed up and had fun, but for me, it was more like a form of training. It was a time when the powers that be showed me the different types of spirits, both good and bad. ♦



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